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heart never won much of anything, so I proceeded to tackle "Old Testament Outlines," during what spare time was afforded on and between cases.

After that came another examination, then "New Testament Outlines," followed by an examination and the gold seal. This seal so enhanced the beauty of my diploma, that determination to win the silver seal induced me to take up the study of *The Child for Christ*. Of course, I couldn't stop there, because the green seal was greatly desired, but in order to get it I was obliged to study *Sabbath-School Methods*. *Missions in the Sunday School* for the purple seal; *The Unfolding Life* for the blue, and *The Seven Laws of Teaching* for the red, completed the state diploma, but the end was not yet. An international diploma could be had, for the satisfactory passing of an examination in church history. Nothing but that international diploma would satisfy me, for this little line, learned in early life, clings ever to me, and often spurs me on: "What is once begun should always be done." All the spare time three years had to offer me was devoted to this course, and every moment's study was time well spent. Permit me to be most emphatic about "spare time," for never was my work neglected.

The public exercises connected with the presentation of the international diplomas, were so well received, that a local paper devoted half a column to the description.

All the patients I had, while struggling, along with these studies, were interested. One dear old lady remarked that she admired a nurse who knew something beside just being a nurse.

Pennsylvania.

MARY ELLA HOFFMAN, R. N.

TALKS TO COLLEGE GIRLS

DEAR EDITOR: I have been much interested in the suggestions in the JOURNAL for giving high school and college students information concerning the nursing profession. As a college woman and graduate nurse, I have been anxious that more college women should become interested in nursing. When I was doing institutional work in a college town, I had opportunity, through the Young Women's Christian Association, of talking to the college women, and I never had a more interested audience or one that seemed to know as little about our profession. The idea came to me that some one might be appointed to once a year make a tour of the state, talking to the students.

I do not know enough about state boards to know whether this could be done by them. The lack of information disclosed by my one experience made me feel perhaps this is the reason we are having difficulty in getting the best material for our training schools. I felt, as I imagine a missionary must feel when he finds an eager inquiring audience, that all the world must know his gospel.

Illinois.

M. M.

PERMANENT MEMBERS

DEAR EDITOR: If a nurse has been a delegate to the American Nurses' Association two or more years ago, and she attends another meeting now, say next year, 1914, and presents credentials from an association affiliated with the National, can she become a permanent member? There was a difference of opinion in our state meeting, some saying we had to attend as a delegate this year or after this year, then one other meeting, and we could then become permanent members.

Missouri.

M. M.

The writer labeled this question, "Foolish Question, No.—?" It does seem impossible to define permanent membership in words that will be clearly understood. The first statement in the letter above agrees with the facts. A nurse must have been once sent as a delegate, after that one time, at any subsequent meeting which she attends, she may become a permanent member by presenting credentials and paying dues.—Ed.

SUGGESTION FOR ALMSHOUSE COMMITTEES

DEAR EDITOR: In your September issue the Committee on Almshouse Nursing speaks of the religious needs of the inmates of such institutions. The spiritual welfare of the people in public institutions is too much neglected by our Protestant churches, largely through an ignorance for which there is little excuse. I suggest that your Nurses' Association bring the needs of public institutions before the state conventions of the various Protestant denominations. You will be heard with interest.

Nearly all the Protestant denominations are organized into a national body—the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, with subordinate federations in most of the states. These state bodies, like the separate denominations of which they consist, meet annually. If you will present the needs of your patients to these various state bodies, you will not only benefit your patients, but also the church, which always needs the stimulus of concrete opportunity for work. By presenting these needs to all the denominations you make sure that if, as sometimes happens, one denomination rejects the opportunity, some other body will be found that will jump at the chance. In the large cities the weekly meetings of the ministers can be reached easily and should not be neglected.

For the addresses of secretaries of state federations, write to the Rev. C. S. Macfarland, 1611 Clarendon Building, New York, secretary of the Federal Council.

Rutland, Mass.

BAYARD E. HARRISON.

HELPFUL TABLE TALK

DEAR EDITOR: When I entered training, I was amazed at the free conversation at the tables, concerning patients, nurses, and doctors. As the months passed, I am ashamed to say I talked as much as any one, I suppose, on the routine subjects. I believe my training school is one of the best in the country, too. Since I have been out in institutional work myself, I have made it a point to take a Chicago paper. A nurse is assigned to look after the current events for a definite length of time. She informs herself, brings the paper to the table, and reads a topic between servings.

At first, it was up hill work, the nurses regarded it almost as a punishment, now they seem to realize that they must learn to read intelligently and know what is going on in the world outside our hospital walls.

The pupil nurses know more about what is going on in the country at large, than do the graduates who come into the hospital on cases.

On Sunday we have *The Outlook*, or something equally wholesome. It is a pleasure to hear some nurse start the conversation by speaking about some article she has read on some subject, away from the table, showing that the seed once planted will bear fruit of its own accord.

I would appreciate any suggestions to perfect this plan.

Illinois.